Dynamic Psychology

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COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

The course aims to provide the basic knowledge of Dynamic Psychology in terms of both the elements that characterise it as a specific area of psychology, and the definition of how to conceive its mental functioning.

At the end of the course, students will possess sufficient knowledge about the authors and key concepts of Dynamic Psychology. In addition, they will have acquired basic competences to orient themselves in understanding the psychological functioning of the human being both in normality and within the main nosographic frameworks, taking into particular account the psychoanalytic approach.

COURSE CONTENT

The lecturers will take turns throughout the entire course. In general, the programme will seek to demonstrate the structure of Dynamic Psychology in its multiple forms and articulations. Particular attention will be given to the theoretical-clinical perspective offered by psychoanalysis: from the pre-Freudian authors to Freud, up to the so-called pioneers.

In detail, the course will be divided into the following modules:

MODULE 1.

Unit 1. Presentation of the basic concepts of the discipline and its specific features with respect to: *motivation, actualising tendency, conflict, mental space, clinical and metapsychology*.

Unit 2. Presentation of the basic elements of the diagnostic and nosographic area from a psychodynamic perspective: *signs and symptoms, defence mechanisms, normality and pathology, personality organisation.*

MODULE 2.

Unit 1. Presentation of pre-Freudian conceptions regarding psychic distress: the concept of illness and treatment. Outlines of the *first dynamic psychiatry* and the *new dynamic psychiatry* as preparatory movements for the advent of psychoanalysis.

MODULE 3.

Sigmund Freud: life and works.

This Module will be supported by extensive references to the *Introductory Lectures to Psychoanalysis* and by links to clinical cases written by Freud.

MODULE 4.

Pioneers and dissidents within the first psychoanalytic movement: Abraham, Ferenczi and Rank, Reich, Groddeck, Jung.

MODULE 5.

Current developments within the psychodynamic perspective.

READING LIST

S. Freud, *Introduzione alla psicoanalisi (prima serie) (1915-1917),* in “Opere”, vols. 1-12, Turin, Boringhieri, 1967-1980, vol. 8 (All 28 lessons).

S. Freud, *Introduzione alla psicoanalisi (second series) (1932),* in “Opere”, vols. 1-12, Turin, Boringhieri, 1967-1980, vol. 11 (All 7 lessons).

O. Oasi, *Psicologia dinamica. Dalle origini a Sigmund Freud*, Edra, Milano, 2022.

O. Oasi-D. Cavagna-S. Paolicelli, *L’eredità di Freud. Percorsi di sviluppo in psicologia dinamica*, Edra, Milan, 2021.

TEACHING METHOD

The course, in addition to the frontal lectures, includes 10 hours of practical activities (such as group work, case studies and simulations) aimed at enhancing students' learning and their involvement with the course material.

ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA

An oral exam on the texts included in the reading list and on the teaching material presented in class.

The results of the practical activities will be subject to a final assessment according to methods specified in class.

NOTES AND PREREQUISITES

There are no prerequisites for attending the course. However, intellectual interest and curiosity in the topics covered in the course are assumed.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.